

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-7 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended and Claim 7 is newly-presented herein.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claim 5 recites allowable subject matter. However, since Claim 1 is believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed below, Claim 5 will not be rewritten in independent form at this time.

Claims 1-4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 1 029 696 (Angulo). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a recording apparatus for effecting recording on a recording medium. The apparatus includes a carriage, a guide shaft, a belt, a guide rail, an encoder scale and an encoder sensor. The carriage carries a recording head and is scanningly movable in the apparatus. The guide shaft, disposed upstream of the recording head with respect to a feeding

direction of the recording medium, guides a scanning movement of the carriage. The belt is provided at a same side as the guide shaft with respect to the recording head and transmits a driving force to the carriage. The guide rail is provided at a side opposite from the guide shaft with respect to the recording head in the feeding direction and guides the scanning movement of the carriage. The encoder scale has a record of information relating to positions of the carriage with respect to the scanning direction and determines information relating to a position of the carriage. The encoder sensor is provided on the carriage and detects the information relating to the position of the carriage with respect to the scanning direction and is disposed at a side opposite from the guide shaft with respect to the recording head in the feeding direction.

With the above arrangement, because the encoder sensor is disposed at a side opposite from the guide shaft with respect to the recording head in the feeding direction, the size of the carriage scanning portion and the height of the entire apparatus can be reduced, while, at the same time, recording precision can be improved.

Angulo relates to a printer having a linear encoder strip. Referring to Figure 9, for example, four pens 23-26 provided on the carriage assembly are disposed outside support and guide rails 32, 34. A sensor 123 is also provided. However, it cannot be said at least that the sensor in Angulo is disposed at a side opposite from the guide shaft with respect to the recording head in the feeding direction, as is recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Angulo fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 3-7 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 1. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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